Columbia County Drainage Basin Advisory Council Meeting Thursday, April 17, 2008 Water Utility Administrative Building Conference Room Evans, Georgia

Chairman Bo Slaughter called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

Additional members present included: Jim Bartley, Ben Brandenburg, Greg Banford, John Graham, Phillip Green, and Mike Rorick.

Staff present: Margaret Doss and Jacques Palmer

Visitors present: Loren Waldo.

Agenda: Several items were added to the proposed agenda: Jones Creek erosion, Local schools, stormwater projects, revenue bonds, and rate increase.

Chairman Slaughter advised that future agenda should contain Old Business and New Business as agenda items with specific topics under each as sub points.

Motion Mr. Graham, seconded Mr. Rorick to approve the agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

Motion Mr. Rorick, seconded Mr. Brandenburg to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2008, minutes. **Motion Carried.**

A representative from the Columbia County Extension Service was scheduled to be at the meeting, but she was unable to attend due to an unexpected emergency. She will be invited to attend a future meeting.

The Chair assigned to Jim Bartley and John Graham the task of investigating means of communicating with the county schools the issues concerning drainage basins.

Jones Creek: Mr. Graham presented a report with pictures concerning the continued erosion problem at Jones Creek downstream of Furys Ferry Road. Discussion followed.

Motion Mr. Graham, seconded Mr. Bartley to forward Mr. Grahams' report and pictures to the BOC with the request that immediate action be taken to correct this problem. **Motion Carried.**

Mr. Bartley initiated a discussion about individuals four-wheeling on private property and damaging the property. Discussion followed.

Motion Mr. Bartley, seconded Mr. Graham to have Mr. Bartley take this matter before the appropriate parties at the Sheriff's Department and BOC to explain how this activity is disturbing Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs.

Revenue Bonds: The DBAC asked about the possibility of the Stormwater Utility issuing revenue bonds to raise money to fund stormwater projects. Mr. Clayton, Utility Director, explained that the Stormwater Utility does not have a strong enough financial record to pursue revenue bonds at this time.

Rate Increase: Mr. Rorick brought up the possibility of the DBAC recommending a rate increase to the BOC. Discussion followed.

Motion Mr. Bartley, seconded Mr. Graham, to recommend to the BOC that the Stormwater Utility rate be increased by three cents per unit effective immediately. Motion amended by Mr. Rorick, seconded by Mr. Green, to add 1 cent per unit in 2009 and another 1 cent per unit in 2010. **Motion Carried.**

The request at the previous meeting of the Council, to receive a listing or itemization of all County projects, was not nevertheless addressed at the meeting.

Wynngate Tributary update: Ms. Doss informed the DBAC that the culvert replacement project on Old Petersburg Road was removed from the RFP because that is part of an upcoming DOT project. The RFP was reissued with additional projects from the JJ&G project list. Discussion was held regarding whether or not the DBAC members should visit the project sites. It was determined that an upcoming stream walk would focus on the project areas. Ms. Doss handed out a memo listing upcoming stream walk dates.

Mr. Brandenburg brought up an issue for discussion: the Ridge Road water line construction project. He had pictures taken during construction and said that a contactor on site told him that they were not required to adhere to Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs. Mr. Brandenburg explained that he had sent this information to the Water Utility Director and the BOC. Staff noted that it had become aware of the matter and that action was already being taken.

Public Comment: Mr. Waldo advised the Council that the Augusta Chronicle and Columbia County New-Times are supportive of environmental issues and may be willing to print stories related to environmental issues. He also stated that the problems at Jones Creek mentioned earlier involve more than just repairing the manhole; they are the result of velocity issues.

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Minutes attested by:	
John Graham, Secretary	
Minutes approved by Council on [date]	
Chairman Slaughter	Date

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.